

# Patuxent River Commission July 2005

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## Introduction

The Patuxent River watershed, comprised of 930 square miles, is the largest river that is completely within Maryland. It is often considered the proving ground for many of the Chesapeake Bay Program initiatives. It is also one of the most monitored and modeled rivers of its size in the world. The watershed has trout streams and reservoirs at its headwaters, becomes a large tidal fresh water ecosystem, continues to be a productive estuary, and then empties into the Chesapeake Bay in Southern Maryland (see map). The Patuxent is home to many natural and human resources.

## About the Commission

The Patuxent River Commission (PRC) is a 34-member, inter-jurisdictional group that was created by State legislation in 1980 to address Patuxent watershed issues. The PRC is charged with the implementation of the Patuxent Policy Plan and in 1995 assumed the additional role of the Patuxent River Tributary Team. The focus of the Patuxent Policy Plan is to address programmatic and land management issues while the Patuxent Tributary Strategy seeks to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution.

The PRC's membership represents a cross-section of the watershed's interest groups and serves as an inter-jurisdictional forum for the protection and restoration of the river's economic, recreational, and environmental resources. Membership includes businesses, developers, state and local governments, federal facilities, and environmental, academic, agricultural, and watermen interests.

## History

The Patuxent has a rich resource management history. The watershed is home to many landmark restoration issues and activities. Key points per decade:

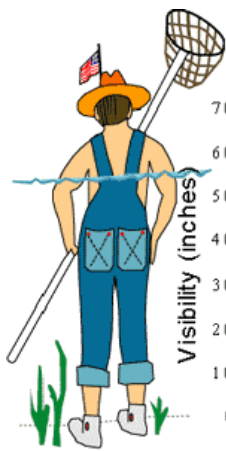
- **1970s** - Documented decline in water quality and the Southern Maryland counties sued the State and EPA over the draft § 208 Water Quality Plan- primarily because of the waste water treatment plants.
- **1980s** – Patuxent River Watershed Act, creation of the Patuxent River Commission, Patuxent Charette (established numerical pollutant reduction goals), advanced wastewater treatment plants, Patuxent River Policy Plan (an adopted land use Plan for the Patuxent), and the Chesapeake Bay Agreement.
- **1990s** – Patuxent declared a national demonstration site by Congress (resulted in a Demonstration Project), Commission's membership and mission expanded to include the role of the Patuxent Tributary Team, and Commission adoption of the Update to the Patuxent River Policy Plan.
- **2000 and Beyond** - Commission is working with State agencies and stakeholders to update the new Tributary Strategy, participated in the clean-up of the April 2000 Patuxent oil spill; worked with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to ensure pipeline safety and integrity within the Patuxent reservoir watershed, partnered with local groups for the preservation and restoration of riparian buffers, and adopted the Update to the Patuxent River Policy Plan.

## For More Information

For more information, contact the Maryland Department of Planning at 410-767-4500 or go to the Patuxent River Commission's web site at <http://www.mdp.state.md.us/info/patux.htm>

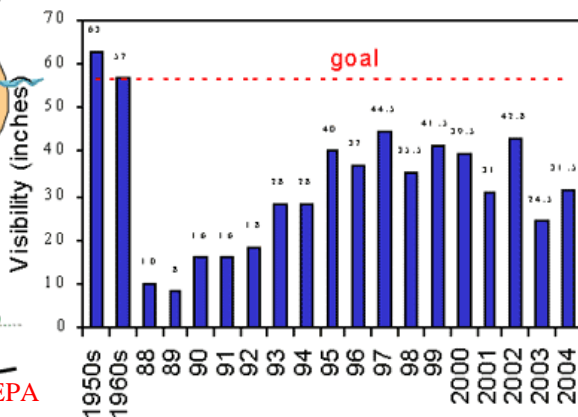


Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. measures Former Senator Bernie Fowler's leg to determine the depth of water clarity at the 2004 Patuxent River Wade-in.



Source: EPA

### Bernie Fowler Sneaker Index



## Commission Members

Alexander Stewart, St. Mary's Soil Conservation District  
 Barbara Sollner-Webb, Citizen  
 Beverly Warfield, Prince George's Dept. of Environmental Resources  
 Councilman Michael Leszcz, City of Laurel  
 Dale Shaner, Waterman  
 David Bourdon, Prince George's Soil Conservation District  
 David Jenkins, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland  
 David Seaborn, MD Dept. of the Environment  
 Dominic J. Motta, MD-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, Prince George's County  
 Donald Brown, St. Mary's County  
 Donald Marquardt, Fort Meade  
 Dr. J. Scott Angle, academic  
 Dr. Walter Boynton, academic  
 Earl F. Hance, Farmer  
 F. Hamer Campbell, Jr., MD-National Capital Building Industry Association  
 Fred Tutman, Farmer, Patuxent River Keeper  
 Ginger Klingelhofer-Ellis, Anne Arundel Planning & Code Enforcement  
 Hon. Allan Smith, Chair, Charles County  
 Hon. C. Bernie Fowler, Calvert County  
 Jack Leighty, DVM, Citizen  
 John Rhoderick, MD Dept. of Agriculture  
 Kenneth Shanks, MD Dept. of Natural Resources  
 Larry Cartano, Crescent Development  
 Lorelei Summerville, Citizen  
 Marc Lieber, Proficient Technologies  
 Mary Kilbourne, Citizen  
 Meosotis Carmen Curtis, Vice-Chair, Division of Environmental Policy and Compliance  
 Meg Andrews, MD Dept. of Transportation  
 Mohammad T. Habibian, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission  
 Nazir Baig, MD-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, Montgomery County  
 Pamela King, MD Cooperative Extension  
 Susan Overstreet, Howard County\*\*  
 Tay Harris, MD Dept. of Planning  
 Wes Coleman, US Army Corps of Engineers

## Commission Staff

Tay Harris, MD Dept. of Planning  
 Claudia Donegan, MD Dept. of Natural Resources

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